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ROBERT SUTTON

JAN 20 2000

MR. SUTTON: My name is Robert Sutton and I am one of the intimidated citizens that Kay Drey talked about who don't talk about their fears --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm having trouble hearing.

1 MR. SUTTON: I was just saying I'm not a public speaker. Anyway, this hearing isn't just about the shipment of irradiated fuel rods through the home towns of 50 million Americans. Rather, it's part of the larger and maybe even more dangerous issue of the alienation of the American people from their government; when they're made to feel powerless and even expendable by that government.

In this case public cynicism will be fueled by this hearing itself. Even though many of the citizens -- and most of the citizens here today oppose this unsafe shipment scheme, none will likely be shocked when the Department of Energy ultimately does just what it wanted to do from the beginning.

2 In fact, most of the 50 million people who live near the shipment routes and who will be exposed to the radioactive equivalent of 2-1/3 million atom bombs won't ever know it's even happening unless a disaster occurs. In that case, they will be like many other powerless and unwitting Guinea pigs in other immoral government experiments, such as the black men who were allowed to die of syphilis in Tuskegee, Alabama.

3 However, the winds don't recognize the boundaries of politically powerful and unpowerful states, and if a disaster does occur, the radiation will not only affect the immediate area, it will affect more distant areas as well. So unless the unelected DOE officials who came up with this scheme want to include themselves as part of the group of expendable Guinea pigs, they should continue storing the fuel rods at the nuclear power plants. Thanks.